

## **COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY**

**June 26, 2001**

**6:15 PM**

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Sysyn, Pariseau

Absent: Aldermen Vaillancourt, Hirschmann

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communications from Aldermen O'Neil and Levasseur relative to previous actions taken regarding Civic Center Event Parking.

Alderman Sysyn stated the only thing that was my big hang up was the prepay on this. There has to be a way and I believe we should do the prepay but we need to also take care of the merchants with a validation program. It is something that we can work out with the merchants. The only thing I can see if there is a big sign that says if you are shopping downtown they will give you a different ticket or please take a ticket but you always have somebody there, like at 6 PM if they are going to shop at the shops that are open on Mondays and Thursdays until 8 PM they have to have a way...they could give them a different ticket and they would take it to their shopkeeper to validate. I still think we should have prepay otherwise but for the shopkeepers I think they should be able to validate parking tickets. I do it. I am not open at night so it is not going to affect me.

Alderman Pariseau asked how would they control the different colors if they drive into the garage...

Alderman Sysyn interjected when they drive into the garage and there is a prepay...I know in the Victory garage if you go up and get a prepay and the guy says he is going to go shop at Modern Bride or anywhere downtown and the person says I am shopping then he will give him a regular ticket. That guy isn't going to be downtown and somebody will be on duty until 10 PM. I don't think we should have to keep people there until 11 PM. You would have to have good signage for this like "shoppers park free" or something.

Mr. Lolicata stated in reading the ordinance I think that is where the mix up is coming in. You are going to have your regular prepay like you are thinking. On the ordinance it says during civic center event nights. In other words, on those nights you are going to have your early bird special that will be validated by the downtown merchants and those exiting will pay \$3. All others will pay \$5 and take a ticket. The other nights will be business as usual Mary. In other words, from what I understand in reading this, it is during civic center event nights only that we are going to use the early bird special validation for \$3 and \$5. On a regular night that you are talking about, they could have a prepay as usual.

Alderman Sysyn stated but the only night that would affect downtown merchants is Thursday. You are not going to have anything going on Mondays. It would be Thursday nights that would affect the downtown merchants. In order to do that validation you are going to have to have some good signage because people are going to think when they shop downtown that they have to pay \$3 or \$5.

Mr. Lolicata replied but that is not true.

Alderman Sysyn responded not it is not but you need to have the right signage, Tom, because if I don't know...

Mr. Lolicata interjected the signs will go up when the events go on that night. Is everybody following me on that?

Alderman Sysyn asked only on those nights.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is right here in the ordinance. It states "civic center parking fees to be posted on civic center event nights." That is the key.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked can I clarify a couple of things. There were provisions for civic center nights, no doubt about it but there was also an hourly rate in the garages and that hourly rate did apply in the evenings as well as during the day so on the evenings you don't have a civic center event people would have to pay in the garages unless you developed some type of validation program. If you have a prepay, the validation program isn't part of that.

Mr. Lolicata stated but they will still pay the regular rates.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied that is my point. You can't have a validation program and have a prepay at 50 cents an hour or \$1 an hour or whatever. So, on nights when there are no civic center events you would have no validation program the way it is written now.

Alderman Sysyn stated but they are open Monday nights.

Chairman Clancy replied they are open five nights a week as far as I know. Monday through Friday. The garage is open until 10 PM.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated if you have a prepay you would not have a validation program unless there is some other mechanism to work it out with the garage personnel and I don't know how you would do that.

Alderman Sysyn replied that is what I am saying. If you gave them...

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected if your intent is that you want to have, as Alderman O'Neil has indicated, a prepay but you still want to build in a validation program my suggestion would be that you refer that directive to the staff and have the staff sit with the parking garage people and figure out a way to do it. I am not sure how they are going to be able to do that.

Mr. Lolicata stated most people pay the rate just to park there and go downtown to eat.

Alderman Sysyn replied right they are prepaying now downtown but in the garage behind me are they prepaying.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded yes they are.

Alderman Sysyn asked so what if they go shopping with you on Monday night, Brian. How are you validating their stickers there?

Mr. Brian Fortin stated the way I understand it right now on both Monday and Thursdays if my clients come in before 8 PM they are not required to prepay. They get a ticket at the entry of the parking garage and bring that ticket to me and I validate it using the sticker program. They are not required to prepay on either Monday or Thursday.

Chairman Clancy asked is that all of the garages or just one.

Mr. Fortin answered it is strictly the Canal Street garage that I am familiar with.

Alderman Sysyn stated that is what I do also during the day because I don't have night business. The other thing too, Tom, is if we don't have prepay when you come out of the garage do you know the traffic jam you are going to have because those gates are going to be closed and every guy that comes out has to pay a ticket? You are going to have an awful jam down there.

Mr. Lolicata replied first of all we don't expect it to be filled like the Center of New Hampshire garage. The lots will be filled but because of the validation program and because we are talking about the early bird special on event nights only we have to have someone in the garages until 1 AM or 2 AM. They have to because of the fraudulence. I don't want that happening. Prepaying, you can't ask every single person going in that night are you not going to go or are you going to go. You could go in and say I am going to the event center and you are not going to go and still pay the other one. This way they can tell with the ticket, especially on those nights.

Alderman Sysyn stated but when they go into those garages there is an attendant there when you are prepaying and he gives you the ticket. I have been there and seen that.

Mr. Lolicata replied understandable but during an event night what do you ask the person, \$3 or \$5.

Chairman Clancy stated naturally they are going to say \$3.

Mr. Lolicata replied right so we would have to have that for fraudulence. Most people who go downtown pay the \$2 and go in the Victory garage. That is the one that we are focused on right now. We are not changing that. It is only during event nights when we will be going until 1 AM or 2 AM. They are going to exit and pay the \$3 or \$5. That is how I am reading the ordinance that you passed.

Alderman Sysyn stated I still think they can prepay because if you have signage...it is something you can work out with the garages and the merchants probably but there is a way that you can prepay and still let these people do their validation. There has to be a way that you can work that out.

Mr. Lolicata replied we are trying to keep it to one validation now, the early bird special. I understand that are two or three validations going on right now, which I just learned about and we have to have it down to one. We have to do this.

Chairman Clancy asked we have two or three different programs right now.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes. I just found this out.

Alderman Sysyn stated I didn't know that. I do one.

Mr. Lolicata replied there are different types and I just found this out. With this early bird special we are just doing one. That is to help the downtown merchants.

Chairman Clancy asked so as it stands right now what is the cost for validation.

Mr. Lolicata answered I believe it is \$2, which is fine and most people are doing that anyway.

Alderman Sysyn stated the validation isn't \$2.

Mr. Lolicata replied he is talking about the prepay going in right now. The validation, I don't know how it works.

Mr. Fortin stated we purchase the stickers over at the Victory parking garage and pay 50 cents on the dollar. If somebody comes in with that ticket if they are in there for two hours I put two stickers on there. We can validate up to three hours and no more than that.

Mr. Lolicata replied that is just one program I found out about. Let's try to simplify this as best as possible.

Chairman Clancy stated we should have just one validation and not two or three different ones.

Alderman Levasseur stated we have that situation behind the McQuades lot on Franklin Street where the block pays the City a certain amount of money for a certain amount of spaces. Wouldn't it make sense that we could just do the same thing with the garages and just have the block of the businesses in that mall pay a certain amount of money and we block off 10 spaces?

Alderman Sysyn replied they don't have enough room.

Alderman Levasseur stated well that garage is pretty big. If you just blocked off a section of the parking garage itself strictly for those businesses then they would come in and get validated and then leave on their own. We are only talking about two nights so it is not like it would be a strain. If you did that for Monday and Thursday...let's say they wanted 15 spaces, they all pitch in and pay a certain amount of money to cover the cost just like we do down on Elm Street. We all pay a certain amount of money for the total cost that goes to the City and it works well because there is a person there that watches it. They get their ticket, the ticket goes back to Modern Bride, they punch the ticket and they are gone. So you block off a certain section that way when people come from all over the place there will

be a sign there stating “no parking shoppers in a certain section only” and then I think you solve a lot of this. That is what works on Elm Street and we haven’t had any problems. People are able to get in and get out and come in for an hour or an hour and a half and they are out of there. We have it for that section so I don’t see why we can’t have it for these guys unless you don’t like the idea. We have so many different price things going on that I think you should be able to have you customers come in and park for free but you guys pay the extra charge. We have a deal where it is \$20 for me and if 10 guys show up for lunch and park there that is good for me. I am one of those guys that only gets one or two so I am paying a little bit more but I don’t mind because it is for the convenience of the whole block.

Chairman Clancy asked do you know what that whole block pays for the 34 spaces.

Alderman Levasseur answered I am not sure.

Chairman Clancy stated I think it is \$30 for the month. They don’t pay much, I know that.

Alderman Levasseur stated they are paying more than that because I know that I pay \$20 a month based on square footage.

Mr. Lolicata stated with all due respect I am trying to keep this as simple as possible. I am trying to stick with an ordinance. The garages are much different than the parking lots. We have a system in there that I have to worry about and that is what we are trying to do right now.

Alderman Levasseur stated but you have five different prices for everybody. You have three different validation systems.

Mr. Lolicata replied the only prices we have are by the ordinance and during events only all you have to worry about is \$3 or \$5 going into that garage. Outside of that, it is business as usual. You will have your new rates, which are going in for the parking garages. I don’t know what else we can do.

Alderman Levasseur stated the situation is pretty simple. Not every week of the year on a Thursday is there going to be an event so it is not that burdensome. Every week of the year there is not going to be an event on a Monday. There are going to be Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. They are worried about Mondays and Thursdays. Those are their big nights. We are just looking for two days and that is not a lot and it is also not going to be every Thursday night.

Mr. Lolicata replied I will look into the Victory garage to see if they can work out a validation program for Mondays and Thursdays but it seems to me that we are getting away from simple all of the time. I know there are going to be some toes stepped on. We are trying to do something for everybody here and pretty soon we are going to distinguish seven, eight or nine different groups.

Alderman Levasseur stated it works well for our block and that is why I suggested it.

Chairman Clancy stated we have too many fingers in the pie.

Mr. Lolicata stated you can only do so much with one garage. You can only do so much with one City, with certain rates and certain times. We are trying to make this easier on the residents and the people like Mr. Fortin and the people who come into the civic center as well as the downtown shopper.

Chairman Clancy asked do you know what they are paying for those 34 spaces down there per month.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is about \$2 per space.

Chairman Clancy stated that is cheap.

Mr. Lolicata replied I am not disagreeing with you.

Alderman Pariseau stated we should rescind that action.

Mr. Lolicata replied that is up to the Aldermen.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think the first thing that the Committee needs to address is the effective date of all of this and in talking to various Aldermen there are some differences of opinion. Some believe it is July 1 and some believe it is November.

Chairman Clancy replied it is my understanding that the reason it is July 1 is because that is when the ordinance is going to be made effective. Is that right?

Mr. Lolicata responded yes because you have your rates and your leases.

Alderman O'Neil stated okay so the effective date is July 1 and then as I note in my letter to the Board we should delay that implementation. First of all, with regard to the monthly rate increases the only notice that I am aware of at the time I wrote the letter on June 20 was an advertisement in the *Union Leader* by the City

Clerk, a legal notice. I since note that a day or two later some signs went up. That is not a very good way of doing business with people who have, in many cases, stuck with us for a long time when there wasn't much happening downtown and I don't think that is a good way of doing business. We should have sent a notice out to them. I was told that wasn't going to be done. Maybe people are going to tell me that it is going to be done now but there should have been at least a 30-day notice given to the monthly parkers whether it is \$1 increase or \$100 increase. That should have been the way we did it in my opinion so I am suggesting we delay implementation of July 1. Secondly, I will go back to the prepay. I am a little bit familiar with the Victory garage. With regards to eliminating the prepay, there are a number of businesses...people who go to Margaritas and even Liquids where they would prepay \$2 and after 10 PM we don't care what time they leave. They could leave at midnight or 2 AM. We don't care because we have gotten our money. If we are going to do ticketing that means we have to man the booths until 1 AM correct? How do you collect money if there is no one there to collect it?

Mr. Lolicata asked can I answer your first question first. That has been taken care of. That was being taken care of when you wrote this letter.

Alderman O'Neil replied don't tell me it was being taken care of.

Mr. Lolicata stated let me finish please. National Garages or David Waldecher has been sending out all of these notices. Their system doesn't go in until July 10 so he couldn't do it in time. We are not going to charge these people in August the \$2 extra so that the system can catch up. They will be notified 30 days in advance. He was in the process of doing that but he couldn't do it until July 1.

Alderman O'Neil stated when I asked that question I was told that there were no notices going out.

Mr. Lolicata replied the only notice as in the paper. You are correct but Dave Waldecher had to send them out.

Alderman O'Neil asked why didn't you tell me that.

Mr. Lolicata answered because he hadn't even informed us yet. I couldn't give you that answer. As a matter of fact, it is going to be earlier than usual and they are not going to pay until August for this.

Alderman O'Neil asked so you didn't know that he was sending notices out.



Mr. Lolicata answered he hadn't told us yet. Because of his system, which started July 10, we weren't aware of it. We thought they were sent out and he told us he couldn't do it until after that.

Alderman O'Neil asked so they are being sent out July 10 and the effective date of the monthly increases is what.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is still July but they won't be billed until August. They will pay two extra dollars for July and August and then every month thereafter an extra \$1.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am comfortable with that. That is not what I was told but I am glad it happened to be honest with you. Let's go back to the prepay. Alderman Levasseur and Alderman Sysyn certainly being downtown business people have a good understanding of the validation program and I am comfortable that I think the parties can work something out here. I think we need to make sure that the prepay is in effect civic center night or non-civic center night. I thought and I understand that I may be wrong with this, I thought we were going to \$3 for non-civic center nights. I am told it is still \$2 by ordinance.

Chairman Clancy asked have the rates increased.

Mr. Lolicata stated the regular rates for the garages have increased.

Alderman O'Neil asked is it \$3 for prepay on non-civic center nights.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is still \$2.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am comfortable with going up to \$3. It has been \$2 for 10 years. When I read that and I guess I misinterpreted that but I thought it was \$3 and \$5. \$3 for non-civic center nights and \$5 for civic center nights and I would suggest that is where we go.

Mr. Lolicata stated those fees are for civic center event nights.

Alderman O'Neil asked for non-civic center nights are it still \$2.

Mr. Lolicata answered correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked why wouldn't we want to change that to \$3. I am just asking that the Committee consider that. It has been \$2 for 10 years under the prepay.

Chairman Clancy stated maybe sometime in July or August we can bring up the cost for the prepay.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I would just like to raise an issue that in our legal notice we did not provide for any prepaids at all. It is based on an hourly rate. If they are prepaying it has to be prepaid based on a 1 AM I guess because that is the way it has been set-up under the notice. If you want to establish a prepay you need to probably determine what hours the prepay is for and base it on some form of rate.

Mr. Lolicata stated once again the \$3 and \$5 are for civic center event nights only and the signs will go out for those. If you are talking about non-event nights, that is something that you and the Board have to take up.

Chairman Clancy asked do you have these signs ready.

Mr. Lolicata answered no but those can be made up in a week. The prepaids that Alderman O'Neil is talking about on non-event nights, that has been going on for quite a while and it is your prerogative if you want to raise it. As far as I am concerned it is business as usual and the only thing is the increases hourly rates. The other rates are for civic center event nights only.

Mr. Robinson asked that \$2 prepay is that by ordinance.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered no.

Mr. Robinson asked are we having an illegal activity because if the hourly rate is posted, for some people it would be cheaper to pay the hourly rate than to pay the \$2. Are we doing something illegal?

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I would have to go back and double check but I think when the rates were established probably at one point in time there was a prepay rate that was approved by the Committee and forwarded to the Board in a Committee report. The rates in the garages are not set by ordinance. They are set by approval of the Board. They are not part of, in essence, the traffic regulations as a meter. They are garages and not metered spaces so they are set-up differently. I would point out that the legal notice to the public states "hourly rate 50 cents per hour" and it is "6 AM until 1 AM, Monday through Saturday excluding holidays." In essence, this does not provide for a prepay. Effective July 1 there is no prepay and somebody should be manning it at 50 cents an hour according to what was presented. If it is other than that then something needs to be acted upon by the Board and by this Committee. That is the only point I want to make. You can't

say business as usual because business as usual was wiped out with this last legal notice and the report of this Committee.

Chairman Clancy asked why don't you read that one more time so that people will understand it.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated it is 50 cents an hour from 6 AM until 1 AM and there is no provision for prepay at this point in time. If you want to establish a prepay you certainly can do so and we will report that out to the Board on July 17 and I don't think that holding back for a couple of weeks is going to create a major problem. We definitely can't continue to charge a prepay unless the Board approves one at whatever rate the Committee would desire. I don't know what the \$2 was based on in the past. It may have been based on the former hourly rate because the former hourly rates were 50 cents an hour for the first hour, 75 cents for two hours and \$1.25 for three hours and 25 cents for each additional hour thereafter so they probably were basing it on a little over three hours of parking. If you are doing it at 50 cents an hour and you just want to be consistent and you want to have a full prepay you would take the 50 cents per hour times six hours and it would come out to \$3.

Alderman O'Neil stated my suggestion as I led off my letter was that we should...I think the work that the various committees did probably brings this program about 80% or 85% correct but I think we need to take it a few steps further. That is why I suggested, based on what I knew was in the ordinance effective July 1 that we should rescind what has happened because I don't think that was the intent.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied the Clerk would have a problem with that.

Alderman O'Neil responded well Carol that is tough if you have a problem. There is a problem with what got enacted. That is where the problem is. Let's just delay this. We are not going to see a great amount of...actually revenues are going to drop off in July and August anyway because people just aren't using the garages. If we put this off and try to work on it for a month or two and make things effective September 1 and then the civic center event fees on November 15 or something I think that would be the proper step. I have questions here and I don't want to keep you here but what are we doing with the garages on Saturdays and Sundays. I understand the garages are open on Saturdays and we are going to man them. My understanding is that they are going to be manned but there will be nobody parking in them so we will be losing money and then on Sundays they are going to be free even when there is a civic center event.

Chairman Clancy asked what is the story on the garages on Saturday and Sunday, Tom.

Mr. Lolicata answered Sundays they have always been closed. I mean people can go in there for free. I am going by the ordinance here.

Chairman Clancy replied never mind the ordinance. Where does it stand as it is right now with the City?

Mr. Lolicata responded it is free.

Alderman O'Neil stated so the day of a civic center event we could theoretically have two events say on Sunday afternoon and Sunday night and we are giving free parking away. It doesn't make any sense to me. It is inconsistent with the intent of the...you need to be consistent seven days a week in my opinion. That is all I am saying. Rescind what we have done and give everybody a chance to review what has been proposed and then we can work in July and August to try and fine tune it.

Mr. Lolicata stated it was free until these ordinances were passed and now you have Saturdays that right now people are going to have to pay for. Saturdays and Sundays had always been free.

Chairman Clancy stated when the civic center opens up you are definitely going to have things on Saturdays and Sundays so what is the status of the garages going to be.

Mr. Lolicata replied well the ordinances says that the hourly rates go from 6 AM until 1 AM, Monday through Saturday.

Chairman Clancy responded I don't care what it says. What are you doing right now?

Mr. Lolicata stated right now I am trying to stay along the same lines as the ordinance because when the civic center comes in we have to think about Saturdays downtown.

Chairman Clancy asked, Jay, what is your committee up to.

Mr. Taylor answered this is not part of my committee. We are not dealing with this issue.

Mr. Robinson stated Alderman O'Neil is correct. One of the things that is missing, I think, is that if there are two events the City would be losing revenue but one of the things I think we are all missing is that this is a business and we have to use

some business sense. If it is 11 PM and there are two cars in the garage, you don't have to have somebody on staff until 1 AM. We have to use some common sense. If there are 100 cars in the garage, maybe you can stay open until 1 AM but if there are two, there is no need to stay open. You just have to see what happens, see who is using the garages and then make a decision.

Chairman Clancy stated right we are going to find out what the mistakes are as times goes along and try to correct them.

Alderman Sysyn asked, Carol, can we change these ordinances.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered the Traffic Committee can certainly make a decision to have something changed and that could be forwarded to the Board in the form of a recommendation and the Board can vote on that on July 17 when it meets.

Alderman Sysyn stated if they start doing this and it doesn't work out right then we are going to have to change or amend those ordinances.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated what you are doing with your garages right now is you are setting some standard rates and you have done that with meters and other things and you change parking regulations across the City all of the time and I don't see this as any different. My understanding when it was presented to the Committee originally was we need to get something on the table but it is probably going to change and certainly from some of the comments made tonight I think it probably will but I think with the civic center there were a lot of questions about how that was going to play out and people wanted to take some time over the summer to work out some more details and come back. When I stated that I had a problem with the change it is not that I have a problem with the change. If you rescind everything then we need to know what it is you are enacting and I would have to confer with the Traffic Director because I am not sure how soon he could go back to all of that original information. It would be better to change whatever you have a major problem with and if there is a big problem here or something that is really bothering people or pieces of it I would rather see us work through those or assign staff to go back and look at it and come back to the Traffic Committee in a week.

Alderman Pariseau stated when we first started this process we realized that there were going to be many problems. We were asked to come up with a sensible solution to potential problems and I think this Committee has. We recognize that there are going to be problems. Let the system go and address it when the civic center becomes operational then this Board or this Committee can make the necessary changes. Right now we don't know what is going to happen and we are

going to change it this week and we are going to change it next week. Some merchants are going to come in and say they don't want this. We are not going to satisfy everybody. We never have and I think that we ought to just let things go the way they are effective July 1 and as we go down the road we can make the necessary changes. You can't fool around with ordinances like changing the date of your birthday every other day.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated there is one issue that came up and that is the prepaids and I think there is an intent to continue that in some form so perhaps you might take Alderman O'Neil's lead on that and suggest that a recommendation be made to establish the prepaids at a \$3 fee, which is the same as the early bird special.

Chairman Clancy asked so in other words we are going to go from \$2 to \$3 right.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered well they have been charging \$2 now so yes in essence you would, which is the same rate as the 50 cents an hour but it allows the prepaid to continue. If there is not a civic center event, they can collect it ahead of time and they don't have to be staffing the garage at night.

Alderman O'Neil stated certainly my two big issues were the prepaids and the notification to the monthlies. The Traffic Director has already told us that that is being addressed. I wish the notification to the monthlies would have been done a little sooner. I think if we can address the prepaids and maybe through these next few months work on what needs to be done on Saturdays and Sundays to address that issue I think we will all be in agreement. I think there is some agreement to work out a validation program somehow and we can take this forward. My big concern is if we don't do it right from Day 1 and people show up here and they have a bad experience they are never going to come back. Again, and please don't take this as a shot, Wayne, but from a business standpoint I think if we can get cash in hand as opposed to waiting to collect money going out, especially where you are going to have, you know last call under state law is 12:45 AM. People may not leave until 1:30 AM or 2 AM. At Liquids they leave at 2 AM or 3 AM. I know for a fact that we get prepaids from Liquids. That way we don't have to worry about manning the booth and we meet the objectives of raising some revenue as well as serving the parking needs and again I think my first issue was addressed. I think if we continue to work on the prepaids that is a step in the right direction and bring it up to \$3 for non civic center events and you can put me to rest and stick a fork in me. I must say that on most of these issues, Alderman Levasseur maybe was correct way back when.

Alderman Pariseau stated I would just like to get a clarification from the City Clerk relative to the prepaid. You said something about it not being part of the

ordinance and if we want to make a recommendation to the full Board we could to implement it. That is not part of the process now, Carol?

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated effective July 1 you don't have a prepay provision that has been approved by the Board.

Alderman Pariseau moved that a prepay program be instituted beginning July 1, 2001 at a cost of \$3. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Clancy called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I would just note that the Board will not take up this action until July 17 so the suggestion would be that the Traffic Department just continuing doing what it is doing until the Board has a chance to approve this.

Alderman Sysyn stated I think we should work on the prepay and validation program together. Also, the people who run the garages should be involved in this because they know what the heck is happening in those garages better than we do.

Alderman Levasseur asked are we going to institute the meters below Auburn Street and get those things taken care of. We have the heads in but we don't have the meters on.

Mr. Lolicata answered I have seen the petition and we had suggested at the time to have Elm Street and those streets to have the meters put in but due to the petition...this is for the civic center. This could also be enforced at nighttime.

Alderman Levasseur stated as you all know above Auburn Street there are meters on every side street all the way up and down Canal Street and all. In order to be fair to everyone on Elm Street, we are either going to put in all of the meters that the pipes have been put in for or we are going to take all of the meters out. Now those meter heads have already been put in. I know there are people who are signing petitions to get those out but if I went out and got a petition from the north side of Auburn Street up Elm Street there would also be a petition to take those out. To be fair to all is the way we must do it. There are businesses over there that want meters in there because people are parking there all day long, not paying any revenue at all and not parking in the garages because they are able to park for free below Lake Avenue. I know there is a petition and I know there is pressure but I don't believe that we should only do it from 6 PM to 10 PM. I think if we can get the revenue from 8 AM until 10 PM then we should do it. It should be fair. Like Alderman O'Neil and all of you have said we can't just cater to a few

people. I think it is time that...and I don't know if you have the power to do this tonight but let's just get those meter heads on there, start collecting the revenue and be fair to everyone. I think what will happen, Alderman, is that more people who are parking there for free all along those streets will just go in the garage. I know there is a petition and that is fine but like we said this whole thing is for the whole City and everyone has to pay their fare share. If you are not going to have the meters down there then you should take them out from Lake Avenue and go all the way north. There is no reason why that section should not have meters. That was already agreed upon and those poles were already put in and the meters were already purchased. There is no reason to delay this any longer and that is the comment that I would like to make.

Mayor Baines stated the thing I would like to comment on now is the process and I would like to concur with Alderman Pariseau's statements that we have worked very hard in reaching out to all of the constituents who have been affected by this and one of the commitments that I made and I believe the Board is concerned about this as well is that we have a number of businesses that have made a long term commitment to downtown and they do business here and they have legitimate concerns that have to be listened to. The last thing that we want to do is create a situation where...again we are generating revenues related to the civic center but we end up driving other businesses out of downtown. One of the things that we heard from people who have clients and whether they have people coming to visit them and meeting them at 7 PM is that they shouldn't have to pay \$5 or \$10 to do business. Those were some of the concerns that we dealt with in terms of the issue of prepay or pay as you leave. Those are very complicated issues. It doesn't involve any one business. It involves perhaps 80 or so different businesses that will be impacted by this. Any suggestion that one business is being coddled to or other words that were used is just simply false. These are legitimate concerns by businesses that have invested in downtown for the long term that were here long before the civic center and we want them to be here after the civic center arrives and we have to make a commitment to that. The second issue related to meters in different parts of the City is up to the Board to acknowledge exactly what needs to be done in terms of those meters. I think the issue that arose is that when we talked about the meters we were talking about generating revenue related to the civic center. That was the message that was being given. Now all of the sudden we are putting meters in parts of the City that never had meters before. You should expect those businesses, not all of them, to express concerns about that and if we, as a government, aren't at least going to respond to that and discuss with them exactly why we are doing that then we would not be responsible as elected officials. If we are going to make a statement, we are putting in meters in other parts of the cities because we are generating revenues for the general fund, let's tell them that. They had been told or at least they had the perception that additional meters were being put in to generate revenue from civic center events.



While they are saying that they are saying then why are you charging at times that you never charged before. That is a legitimate question that these businesses are asking. The second part of it is enforcement. You are saying people are parking down there. Well there is a two-hour limit now by the way. They are not supposed to be parking there all day long. If you don't have enforcement on signs then you may not have enforcement on meters so meters may not represent the difference in the situations that were described here by the Aldermen. So we need to look at those in a very comprehensive way. If the Aldermen want to make the statement that we are going to generate more revenues for the City, let's just say it. Let's just say it and I guess we could meters on every street in the City and do that but when we go in with meters where they have never been before I think we have to be honest and forthright with the people of the City. We are not just generating money from the civic center. We are generating additional revenue for the general fund. If that is the will of the Board let's say it and do it and be consistent with it. I have no problem with that but we cannot be zig zagging every time we adopt an ordinance here. Again, Alderman Pariseau said we are not going to please everyone and you are absolutely correct that we are not going to please everyone but this prepay is a critical issue where people are doing business downtown and it is complicated. I was of the notion for prepay. I came away from that issue reluctantly and in a sense kicking and screaming because of my own experience with garages when you are paying on the way out but I think we can accomplish that, generate the revenue and respect the businesses and implement those programs that make sense for existing businesses. I would ask the Aldermen to be patient with this. The civic center is not opening until November. There is plenty of time to make adjustments and changes. We don't have to do it at the last minute and whatever changes we make we have to be committed to sitting down with those involved. If we don't do that then government is arrogant and government is disrespectful. That is not the government that I want to represent and I don't believe the Aldermen want government to be represented that way and that is what came across with some of this correspondence on this issue. That government wanted to be arrogant and disrespectful to businesses. I don't know...how long has Modern Bride been downtown? Over 50 years that business has been in downtown Manchester and to have any kind of an insinuation that put Modern Bride in a public document that indicated that they were doing anything other than trying to stay in...how many businesses have left downtown and gone where there is free parking and no concerns about anything like that? Modern Bride has been here for over 50 years? That would be like ignoring people like McQuades, Ted Herberts and where do you go from there? We need to listen to those people and if the day comes that we don't have to listen and try to accommodate those people, that is a government that I don't want to be a part of. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to say that this evening.

Mr. Taylor stated I would just like to clarify something that is sticking in my craw. It has been reported in both the *Union Leader* recently and the *Hippo Press* that all of these rate increases are related to the civic center. I want to make it clear and I think the Committee understands but it hasn't been reported properly that the only rates that are applicable to civic center related expenses are those that are going to be charged for city owned lots and garages on event nights. The rest of this has nothing to do with the civic center. That has not been made clear and I think the public doesn't understand that.

Mr. Robinson stated just for information I am meeting with Jody Reese from the *Hippo Press* tomorrow to talk about his article in the paper because there are some things that are inaccurate. I have been working on a validation program and I would have to say that we are 90% of the way there. In a nutshell basically we are talking about having the merchants and that being retail or professional associations, basically foot half the bill. If you go in to park for 50 cents an hour, the merchant would pay 25 cents. With that we are also looking at free parking in the garages on Saturdays with validation. Hopefully we can get the merchants to buy into this program which would help their customers. Also, as a point of clarification during civic center events we were talking about the early bird special for \$3 but with the validation program you would be charged the hourly rate so if you come in at 4 PM, hopefully between 4 PM and say it is a hockey game, you visited some establishments on Elm Street and those merchants are part of the validation program and, therefore, you wouldn't pay the \$3 on the way out. You would pay whatever the hourly rate is that is left. The same thing with the \$5. If you come in after 6 PM and visit Margaritas or whatever and they are participating in the program, you would pay the hourly rate.

Ms. Robyn Comstock stated I have written an eloquent and long speech to oppose the prepay plan but I will spare you. I just wanted to say that to continue to recognize the downtown as a multiple purpose business district that includes just retail and dining restaurants and the professional light service sector and when the civic center arises we will now have dual purposes. We will have event interests and non-event interests. I applaud your efforts tonight and your continued efforts and I hope very much to continue to be a part of the dialogue and the process as we continue through this path of serving our community to the best of our ability. I would like you to know that we are there for you and if we have resources or individuals that we can contact to provide you information we would be very interested in providing any supporting assistance that we can as we move forward. Before I leave the microphone I promise I will be brief but for us it is just important to again consider...we are looking at three primary sectors in the downtown community and those are divided into those broader lumps and to consider as we move forward the employee who stays late or comes to work during their regular hours or the shopper who is seeking a quick pick-up at one of

the local merchants and the future merchants that we hope to draw to this community so that we are, in fact, a destination or location that they would target to locate their businesses and the diner who has no other intentions but dinner and then factor in the opportunity for those users of our downtown to seek crossover experiences and multiple purposes. The diner who becomes a shopper, the shopper who becomes a diner, any of them who become the retailer and those who are popping in and out of the white collar sectors. So thank you. I won't belabor the point but thank you for allowing us to be a part of the dialogue and we are anxious to provide any support and assistance in the future.

Mr. Fortin stated I am honored that my store name has come up in conversation quite a bit tonight. Yes, my business has been downtown for 50 years but when I have been speaking, I have had meetings with the Mayor and had other conversations here, I am not just representing my store. As flattered as I am to hear it mentioned tonight, I have been asked to be a spokesperson for the downtown businesses. Through Intown Manchester, I chair the Downtown Business Development Committee and I represent not just the retail sector but also the white collar professional offices and the restaurant group as well. When we are here trying to present, we are trying to present an idea and I hope you consider not just the retail sector but there are restaurants that are open more than just Monday and Thursday nights. Our friends at Margaritas. We have some beautiful restaurants like Baldwins and some new restaurants opening up. There are a lot of other interest besides Modern Bride. I hope you consider all of that. When I have been speaking, I just don't want it to come across because I have read a recent correspondence that it was just Modern Bride for political reasons and that is certainly not the case. I want to make it very clear that I am trying to protect the interest of the business community and I really do believe, like Robyn said, it is a dual-purpose community.

Alderman O'Neil asked is it my understanding that there is going to be work done to address Saturdays and Sundays including if we need to change an ordinance with regards to parking on Sundays.

Chairman Clancy stated yes we are going to address that as soon as possible. I will get together with Mr. Lolicata.

Mr. Mike Kappas stated I own Michael's School of Hair Design and I have a couple of issues to tell you about. Number one, since the civic center started construction last year I have lost a lot of business and a lot of money. I have had people quit, the people working for me because the clients can't find parking so they want to work someplace else where there is parking. It is not necessarily the free parking. It is the convenience of parking close to where you are going. A week ago Saturday I went to Boston and paid \$19 for two hours and I had to walk

a mile and a half. I have been in the downtown business for over 30 years. I stayed downtown. I like downtown but the problem I have is when the construction workers park from 7 AM until 4 PM or 5 PM. When they put the poles for the meters on Depot Street and Auburn Street I was favoring that. The reason is my customers; I even give them money to pay to park. If you go now at 7 AM on Depot and Auburn Street, everybody from North Elm is down there. My people, my clients not my people because for my people I pay for a parking space down at Channel 9 every month. My students and employees park there. I have lost a lot of money. I want you to put the meters in immediately down there for my business. The other thing I want to say is on Elm Street and Auburn Street there are a lot of accidents happening. A lot of them. The reason is that cars do not yield to pedestrians. My people walk down maybe 500' or 1,000'. They go 100 MPH down the street. Last week I talked to Mr. Lolicata about "Yield to Pedestrian" signs and he said the City cannot put those signs in. You have to pay to put the signs in the middle of the street.

Chairman Clancy asked are you talking about the cones like they have up on Bridge Street.

Mr. Kappas answered yes. Mr. Lolicata told me that if a car hits that sign the people can sue the City because of that. Okay, I thought forget the sign but how about if you put the crosswalk lines across the street. There have been a lot of accidents. One more thing, they told me that it is hard to make rules you can't enforce. Like the Mayor said before, if you put the meters in and the metermaid doesn't go and give tickets, the meters don't do anything.

Mr. Jason Fogg from Margaritas stated we have heard a lot of things and stuff like if our employees are going to be working past 1 AM the garage is going to be shut down and we are not going to be able to get our cars out of their until 6 AM.

Chairman Clancy replied that is not true.

Mr. Fogg stated on civic center event nights we heard that our patrons are going to have to pay \$5 to eat at our restaurant. Is that going to hurt our business?

Chairman Clancy replied no that is where the validation program comes in.

Mr. Fogg stated that is why I showed up here tonight. We were concerned. We were wondering if it does happen you know it is going to hurt our business. I would rather drive down to Burger King. I am not going to pay \$5 to eat at the restaurant. We just moved down here and we want to stay. I work there and I pay quite a bit of money every week just to work there and park my car next to where I work. I am sure everybody has the same deal going on. You have to pay to work

so the first whatever we make an hour like somebody who makes \$7/hour at the restaurant the first hour of what they make is for parking so we are there just working for the City for an hour.

Ms. Stephanie Lowry of Intown Manchester stated since it is an open forum here I thought I would bring up a couple of other points that have been addressed in the past week to me since the sign went up in the garage. The gentleman from Margaritas emphasized this and that is that now that we have a vital downtown that is particularly active at night we have employees who actually work the second or third shift in the restaurant industry and the photography shops that have labs that need to have technicians working in the evening and so forth. We actually have a work force downtown whose regular work hours are not 8 AM until 5 PM but they might be coming in at 4 PM and working until midnight or whatever their particular hours are. On behalf of those businesses that have a work force that come in at night, when we continue to investigate the best way to adjust this parking program I think we need to understand that these people need special consideration. Thank you.

Alderman O'Neil asked the meters on all of the streets are going to be two-hour and not five-hour is that correct.

Mr. Lolicata answered we are going to have two hour and ten hour meters.

Alderman O'Neil asked in regards to where a lot of the retail businesses are those are going to primarily be two hours.

Mr. Lolicata answered right.

Alderman O'Neil stated so that should help high turnover and spaces available for the retailers.

Chairman Clancy asked on Depot Street are those meters in or not.

Mr. Lolicata answered no they are not.

Chairman Clancy asked are they going to be put in.

Mr. Lolicata answered they are being held up until you pass an ordinance for us to put them in. Is that part of the petition?

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I don't have the petition but I guess the question would be isn't it a two-hour zone at this time.

Mr. Lolicata replied he is asking me about meters right now.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I know but the question I am asking is it is a two hour zone right.

Mr. Lolicata replied it is either one hour or two. I think it might be one hour down there.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that was raised earlier in terms of and I don't know if there is any enforcement going on.

Mr. Lolicata replied Elm Street is two hours and Depot Street is one hour. If they are parking all day, I don't know what to tell you.

Alderman Sysyn stated they park there for nothing and then come downtown.

Lt. Tracy stated I don't know if it is signed on Depot Street saying two-hour parking. That is one of our daily routes.

Mr. Kappas stated 15 meters were put in where the construction workers parked and then they took out about 7 of them. The construction workers park there and get no tickets.

Chairman Clancy replied thank God that isn't going to last forever because the construction is coming to an end and hopefully things will get better.

Alderman Sysyn stated I know what he is saying. People go down there and park there for free and they work downtown. They do that up by my house. He needs those meters there.

Chairman Clancy replied I know.

Mr. Fogg stated I want to address another issue about your metermaids. I was out back at my place of work and I was using my car for a company vehicle and a metermaid walked up and gave me a \$15 parking ticket and I was loading stuff from my business into my car. Now as this was happening there was a delivery truck right next to me in the same alley and I looked at the metermaid and said so he is pretty much getting a ticket to and she said no his truck is bigger than your car. I didn't understand why I got the parking ticket and I asked if he was going to get one and she said no.

Chairman Clancy asked when did this happen.

Mr. Fogg answered like a week ago and let me tell you I was pretty red faced about it because I felt like she was just slapping me and not slapping him.

Chairman Clancy asked did you pay the ticket already.

Mr. Fogg answered no I was going to contest it.

Chairman Clancy asked do you have the ticket with you.

Mr. Fogg answered no I don't. I have it on the wall in a frame at the house. It was by metermaid Scarborough. I will never forget her name.

Chairman Clancy stated why don't you talk to Lt. Tracy after the meeting.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee